

canadian camping

CAMPING... OUR PAST, PRESENT, and FUTURE.



c.r. blackstock

The programs of organized camps have changed remarkably over the past fifty years just as society and our culture have changed. The present decade is a period when they are going through another marked metamorphosis.

One of the features of the first camps was that you would be "roughing it"; that you would have few of the comforts of home; that you would, to a large degree, have to take care of yourself. Ernest Thompson Seton through his writings and the programs he

developed for his Pioneers put the emphasis on learning the skills and knowledge of the Indian culture, and those that the explorer, trapper and pioneer used to survive in the wilderness.

(continued on page 5)



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SUITE 203, 102 EGLINTON AVENUE EAST • TORONTO, ONTARIO M4P 1E1
TELEPHONE (416) 488-7345

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a sense of loss

Everyone is gone now. Even the leaves are saying goodbyes to the trees.

I looked up at the pumphouse and remembered the many round happy faces looking down. For one instant the faces were still there, and with a magic puff, the wind blew it all away.

The young children's scrapes and cuts are still felt in the infirmary, even though the children have left.

The boats are empty, the waterfront bare. The foot-prints in the sand the only reminder of the laughter which once shattered the air. The sound of the waves now out-shout the giggles.

The archery range is down, much to the enjoyment of the battered targets.

In the lodge I still see the fire, hear the guitar and feel the warmth of many bright, happy, eager faces.

The deer's head still overlooks the lodge. The deer has seen many summers, many youngsters and many oldsters. He's witnessed the laughter, the crying, the arrivals and departures. He has felt the growing up of boys to men and girls to women. What has taken place at this camp? Ask the deer: he knows.....

by Tom Turriff

Programme Director
Elizabeth Brown Memorial Camp
Minden, Ontario

Weaknesses

"People who have no weaknesses are terrible; there is no way of taking advantage of them."

- Anatole France

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In Memoriam

It is with regret we note the passing of

Mrs. R. C. Latimer

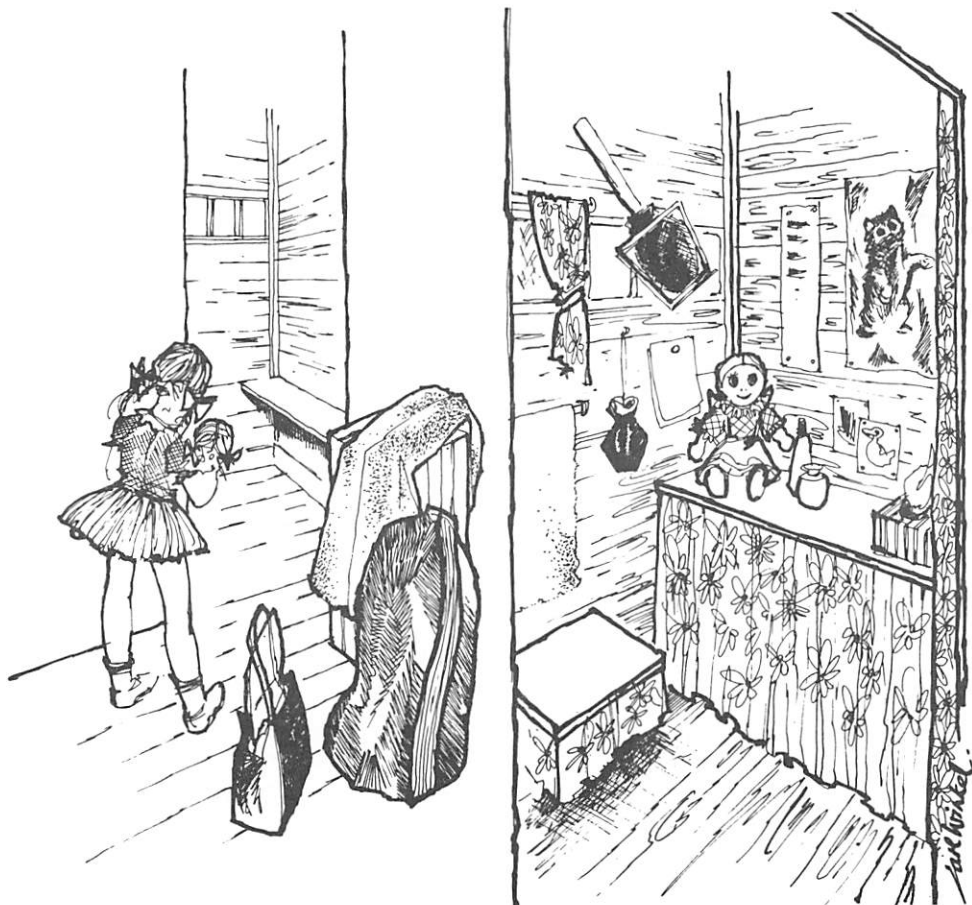
on

May 27, 1978

Our deepest sympathy is extended to John R. Latimer, a past president of the C.C.A. and the present chairman of the National and International Conference Committee.

God wouldn't have
given us feet if he
didn't mean for us to
use them.
Walk.





By Gabrielle C. Winkel

Illustrated by Carl Winkel

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No privacy. That was the main reason I had never wanted to go to a summer camp.

How could anyone ever have a moment alone when practically every move you made and every breath you took was with about a hundred other girls. No camp for me; I was used to my own room with lots of privacy.

This changed one year when my mother heard about a camp where each camper and counselor had her own little dressing room. These cubicles or "cubies" are 6' X 6'.

In preparation, I bought six yards of fabric as mentioned on the outfitters list, to decorate my cubie. Then I collected my favorite posters and a few other items I couldn't part with.

When we arrived. I first saw the sleeping cabins which housed about 12 persons. Then, in front of every two cabins was a very long building - the cubie house. My counselor took me down the hall past two sinks to my private cubie.

Square room with shelves

At first, I admit, I was not too impressed. It was only a square wooden room with a few shelves at various levels and a small window. But then I started to move in.

First, my father put my trunk in as it was to be my dresser for the summer. Then a more seasoned camper, one of my cabinmates, showed me how to put up my cubie material. She had this tricky way of putting up the material and co-
 (continued on page 4)

vering the thumbtacks at the same time.

We put the material on the highest shelf making it a closet, the middle turned into a dresser, and the lower shelf next to it became a bench. Then we put up little curtains. By the end of day, all the campers had moved in.

As I slowly walked down the hall, I couldn't help but peek into each cubie. They were so different. One girl had cat pictures all over her walls, another had the latest teen stars, and my neighbor was a horse fan, even her material had horses on it.

A dressing room first

It didn't take long to learn why these cubies were so popular. Privacy among 100 girls is a rarity. Naturally, it was a dressing room first, and then it was anything else - a place to be alone and dry after a swim class or to practice some lines for a play. Campers never really spent a long time in their cubies since there were a lot of activities to do at camp, but it was a nice place to be for a moment or two.

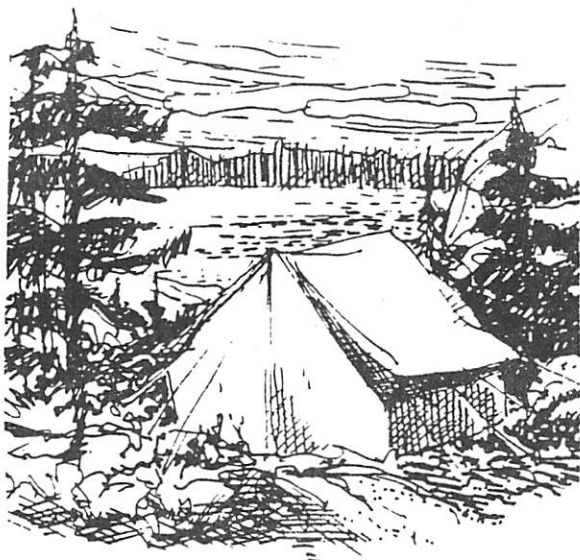
Cubies also serve another purpose. They teach campers to be neat. There are name tags on every cubie door and under the camper's name there is a calendar that covers the camp season. Each day a member of the senior staff, those staff members who supervise the counselors, comes around and inspects the cubie and writes the score in the block of the day.

For counselors, too

Ten is perfect. If a camper keeps a perfect score of 10 all through the summer, then she gets a treat at the end of the season - usually an ice cream sundae. Inspection can happen any time during the day, so campers are kept on their toes. I remember one day I received a 9 because my towel was messy. I was crushed

Cubies are a blessing for counselors, too. Here the counselor can get a few moments of quiet before her campers wake up and after they are tucked in for the night. It also serves as a conference room for private chats. Counselors' cubies have private lights, rocking chairs and NO inspection.

Camp Newfound and her cubies were both founded in 1914 by Elizabeth Horton who felt that it was the right of every girl to have a certain amount of privacy no matter where she was. Campers and counselors have been thanking her ever since.



The "Y" and church camps had a religious emphasis in their programs designed to develop an ideal, all-round personality. The schedules used in camping were patterned after the school timetables which was only natural as most camp directors were school teachers or voluntary agency staff.

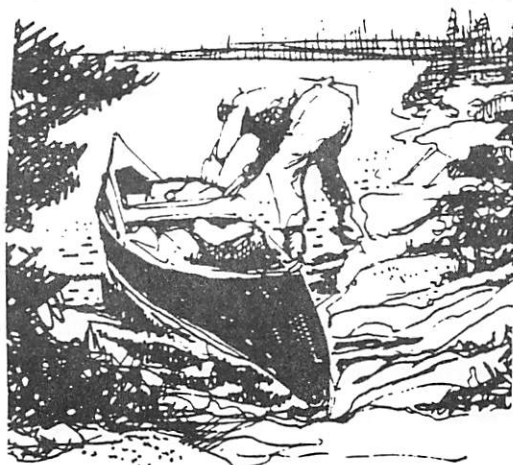
While many of the activities were very different from the academic subjects of school, the same teaching methods were applied to camp activities and took much of the risk and fun out of them. The classes were too

formal and often too large - to the point where the individual got lost.

Then the educators, the psychologist and the health and safety specialist got into the act. They put back more of the risk and chance to explore the unknown. These were good for camping and helped to establish reasonable standards of camping practices and assurances to the public that camping was being properly conducted.

More and more children were in the urban schools and going further in them. They were learning more, had better teachers, much improved facilities and equipment. But they got little learning experience outside the classroom in the real world, in the wilderness.

Some schools, both public and private, introduced "school camping" and found that often the amount and quality of the experience, even in a school time of five days, was much greater and certainly more vivid than a similar period in a classroom. This led many camps to look at their program - making them less formal. The camper groups and their leaders or counsellors were encouraged to plan their own programs. Exploration, discovery and their attendant risks, required foresight, planning and the acquiring of special skills, which led to more adventure; and camper satisfaction from the successful completion of the venture.



(continued on page 6)

It is time again for camping to take a look ahead; to see how it is able to change the program emphasis to better serve our culture and society which will have new needs in the next decade.

Lorne Brown, (former director of Camp Deka, British Columbia) some years ago, led an informal discussion on the possibility of camps working and exchange of camper groups with one another. A camp in one region of the country would exchange another group with another camp in a different region. It might be possible, in the course of three summers for a camper to acquire experiences down by the sea, in the plains country and in the mountains.

Perhaps camps could give their youngest campers the basic skills for wilderness camping in their region. This would prepare them to move on, to go on the extended travel camping which is more adventuresome.

We do have vast areas of wilderness in Canada. Fewer and fewer people know how to survive on their own, to live off the land, to protect the wilderness and themselves. Camping should risk new ventures, should lead the way, should inject a love of this land and its people and set an example which will cause others to want to tread on the same trails.

The illustrations used in this article were
reprinted from the brochure of

Algonquin Waterways Wilderness
Trips

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with the kind permission of
Mr. John McRuer

The artist is
Mr. Keith Scott



Report

The following four pages are devoted to a "Report on the Findings of a Survey of Camp Directors" by Marvin Granek. In the course of writing his thesis for a Masters degree in Recreation at the University of Waterloo, Mr. Granek asked certain camp directors to respond to a series of attitude statements. In his report he summarizes the results of the survey, discusses his findings and makes some recommendations to the C.C.A. Please address any comments you may care to make to Mr. M. Granek, c/o the C.C.A. 102 Eglinton Ave., E. Suite 203, Toronto, Ont. M4P 1E1.

"REPORT ON THE FINDINGS OF A SURVEY OF CAMP DIRECTORS"

One of the challenges in doing research of any kind is reporting the findings to the practitioner, who, in this case, not only were the source of the data, but also the body to whom the results might have the most meaning. It is with this in mind that I would like to present some of the findings related to a study that was undertaken to fulfil the requirements for a Master's degree in Recreation at the University of Waterloo. The study was entitled "An Investigation Into the Attitudes of Resident Camp Administration Towards Critical Problems in Resident Camping", and was a partial replication of one that was carried out in the United States with the sponsorship of the American Camping Association.

The camp administrators chosen were asked to respond to a series of attitude statements, indicating their degree of agreement or disagreement, in each of eight areas: 1) resident camp program; 2) resident camp personnel; 3) public interpretation of resident camping; 4) use and availability of the natural environment; 5) national organization; 6) competition of other summer interests; 7) evaluation and appraisal; and 8) accommodation for special needs.

The information presented below is a summary of the findings of the study followed by a discussion of those factors which would appear to have the most influence on an administrator's attitude in the areas outlined.

Generally speaking, all the administrators agree that there is a problem in holding the interest of older campers. One of the implications of such a finding is that traditional forms of programming for older campers may have to be re-examined in light of changing needs and experiences of teenagers. Private camps appear to be having less difficulty in challenging older campers, as are those camps serving only males.

The administrators surveyed believed that the principles of education, social work and other allied disciplines were pervasive throughout resident camping, and in line with this thinking, were unanimous in their belief that resident camping should be provided for more children who cannot afford it. Although somewhat of a motherhood statement, it expresses, nevertheless, a desirable objective which administrators can work towards, either individually or collectively.

In the area of resident camp personnel, it seems that professional development concerns, including increased education programs and maintaining basic personnel and professional standards for camp administrators, are more likely to be addressed by agency camps as opposed to any other type. Private camps give indications of being least likely to challenge the status quo.

The administrators felt that public interpretation of resident camping is an area that has not been sufficiently addressed. They stress a need for increased

communication between professional camping associations and the general public, the desired effect being a greater awareness of the values of resident camping.

Support for greater investment in research on the part of the Canadian Camping Association comes from two groups which are not necessarily mutually exclusive, agency camps and Quebec camps. Related to this support for research is a belief, on the part of agency administrators more so than others, that the Canadian Camping Association should provide a greater variety of training opportunities for its members. The fact that the administrators were undecided about the differentiation between the provincial and Canadian Camping Associations indicates a need to examine the functions and services of each organization to insure there is as little duplication of services as possible.

Generally speaking, all camps are having some difficulty filling their quota of campers, although church camps less so than others. Quebec camps are having more difficulty getting campers than are camps in other regions. This may tie in to the fact that Quebec camps are most in favour of applied research, perhaps with an eye to alleviating the problem of declining enrolment. Camps in eastern Canada are least concerned about losing their staff to other sectors of the economy. In light of the higher unemployment rates in the east, it would appear that staff positions would be more likely to be filled than in other parts of Canada, where summer jobs for students, although still tight, might be more available.

The importance of ongoing evaluation in the context of well-defined plans and objectives was strongly supported by all the administrators. A majority of the administrators felt that an attempt should be made to evaluate those intangible benefits that are derived from a resident camping experience, which, although more difficult to document, would provide more insight into the values of resident camping.

Administrators generally agreed, in principle, with the idea of integration of special populations into a "normal" resident camp setting. They did, however, recognize the problems involved, among them, lack of trained staff, and the variety of information and knowledge about the process of normalization. Part of the willingness to integrate their camps may be attributed to a very practical concern, namely the declining enrolment of campers in general.

Discussion

In light of the findings it would appear that of the 39 attitude statements, 11 of them had no relationship to any of the background characteristics of the camps and the administrators. Certain of the background characteristics or independent variables would appear to be more influential than others.

The type of camps an administrator directs would seem to have some bearing on their responses to certain of the attitude statements. Administrators of agency camps

generally feel more positive to change, especially in the area of professional development concerns. This might possibly be seen as a kind of spillover effect from the practices of the agencies themselves, which tend to be involved in in-service training and program evaluation on a regular basis. It would seem natural that the notion of professional development would carry over into the resident camp setting.

Private camps enjoy the luxury of being accountable only to themselves. This would obviate, to an extent, the necessity of becoming involved in educational or professional development programs. That is not to say that private camps do not engage in this kind of activity, but merely to point out that the support systems or resources, human and otherwise, are not as accessible as they are in agency camps.

Church camps are distinguished from other types of camps in four ways: 1) sponsorship of the church; 2) religious leadership; 3) teaching of scriptures and 4) outward expressions of worship. With this kind of focus, administrators of church camps would necessarily exhibit different attitudes toward some of the problems delineated in the questionnaire. More than any other type, church camps feel that there is a lack of adequate programming for older campers. This may reflect the fact that church camps tend to be more traditional in their program design, which might be adequate for younger campers, but not innovative or diverse enough for older campers who have already been through the system. The idea of tradition or consistency may be advantageous from the point of view of filling camper quotas. Church camps appear to have less difficulty filling their camps. Administrators of church camps appear to be non-committal in their perceptions of the role of the Canadian Camping Association. This would seem to indicate a lack of identification with the natural organization or else a lack of information about the functions of the Canadian Camping Association.

Location of camp, i.e., in what region it is situated would appear to have some influence on the administrators' responses to some of the statements. Historically the tradition of resident camping has been centred mainly in Ontario and Quebec. As a result, the popularity of resident camping in these two regions may have peaked. Indeed, Quebec and Ontario seem to be having more difficulty filling their quota of campers than are camps in eastern and western Canada. Demographic changes in the population, however, have also contributed to a diminishing supply of campers, although the possibility of new markets has been opened up.

Regional disparities and varying economic conditions across the country may produce conditions which would influence the responses of the administrators to various problems. Losing potential staff to other sectors for example does not seem as much of a problem to administrators in the east, given the high unemployment rate, especially among students.

It seems that of the thirteen background characteristics of the camps and the administrators, type of camp and location of camp had the most influence in terms of the administrators' responses to the attitude statements. Although each of the remaining independent variables had a significant relationship to at least one of the statements, there does not appear to be a logical basis for some of the relationships. It may be that some were due to chance while others were due to misinterpretation of the questions.

On the basis of the findings, the following recommendations are made to the Canadian Camping Association:

- 1) The CCA should attempt to develop a higher public profile in order to reinforce the concept of camping as a recreational, educational and therapeutic force within society.
- 2) The CCA should undertake a study of the feasibility of creating a camp director certification program which would serve as a model for continuing professional developments.
- 3) Efforts should be made, either at the provincial or national organization level, to encourage short-term staff exchanges between camps in different provinces or between different types of camps.

Postscript

I would like to thank all those administrators who responded to my questionnaire. Financial constraints prevent me from mailing a copy of the findings to each of you who indicated a desire for one. Instead, I have chosen to present the findings in the Camping Magazine with the hope that it reaches the right people.

— COMING EVENTS —

October 26-28, 1978	C.C.A. Board Meeting	St. John's, Newfoundland
January 26-28, 1979	C.C.A. Board Meeting	Banff, Alberta
February 19-24, 1979	A.C.A. International Conference	Minneapolis, Minn.
March 1-3, 1979	O.C.A. Annual Conference	Toronto, Ontario
May 10-13, 1979	C.C.A. Annual Meeting	Nova Scotia
November 1-3, 1979	C.C.A. Board Meeting	Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Please send the dates of your meetings and conferences as soon as they are known, so that we can expand "Coming Events" in the next issue of "Canadian Camping" to include announcements of happenings in all the provincial associations.

CANADIAN CAMPING ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION DES CAMPS DU CANADA
Provincial Camping Associations

British Columbia Camping Association

Dr. Don Arnold, President
633 West 8th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 1C7
Phone: (604) 879-5100 (O)
Co-ordinator: Miss Nancy Greig

Alberta Camaping Association

Mr. Lou Ianier, President
c/o YMCA, 332 6th Ave., S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2P 0R5
Phone: (403) 269-6156 (O)

Saskatchewan Camping Association

Mr. Laverne Jantz, President
Box 7543
Saskatoon, Sask. S7K 2L5
Phone: (306) 363-4728

Manitoba Camping Association

Mrs. Shanley Parkinson, President
c/o 200 Vaughan St. 2nd Floor
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8
Phone: (204) 942-5566 (O)

Ontario Camping Association

Miss Jocelyn Palm, President
102 Eglinton Ave., E. # 203
Toronto, Ontario M4P 1E1
Phone: (416) 486-8630 (O)
Secretary: Mrs. F. R. Robinson

Quebec Camping Association. Inc.

Dr. Ken R. Willis, President
2233 Belgrave Ave.,
Montreal, Quebec H4A 2L9
Phone: (514) 489-1541 (O)
Secretary: Miss Frances Kelly

Association des Camps du Quebec, Inc.

M. Rene Rousseau, President
14e avenue
Val-Morin, Quebec
Phone: (819) 326-3753
(514) 861-7177

ACQ-QCA Provincial Board

Abbe Robert Maisonneuve, President
1415 est, rue Jarry
Montreal, Quebec H2E 2Z7
Phone: (514) 374-4700 ex 447 (O)
Executive Director: M. Raymond Hade

New Brunswick Camping Association

Mr. Robert Cameron, President
Recreation and Parks Dept.
City Hall - Main Street
Moncton, New Brunswick
Phone: (506) 854-3333 (O)
384-3095 (H)

Nova Scotia Camping Association

Mr. George Matthews, President
Box 696
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3H5
Phone: (902) 424-4329 (O)
865-2715 (H)

Newfoundland and Labrador Camping Association

Mrs. Elizabeth Wegenast, President
Box 4188
St. John's, Newfoundland A1C 5Z7
Phone: (709) 753-0027

National Office

Mr. Jack Pearse, President
102 Eglinton Ave., E. # 203
Toronto, Ontario M4P 1E1
Phone: (416) 488-7345
Office Manager: Mrs. R.M. Roy



canadian camping association
association des camps du canada

SUITE 203, 102 EGLINTON AVENUE EAST
TORONTO, ONTARIO M4P 1E1



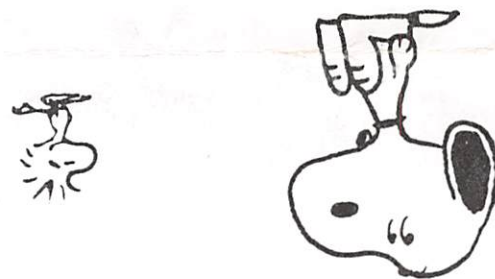
THE SIGN
OF A
GOOD CAMP



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STANIS



"I'm not used to have someone lis-
ten to what I say."
"It's thrilling to be recognized
in one's own lifetime."
"Never jump into a pile of wet
leaves holding a sucker."
"No, but I'm pretty perfect."
"Gee, somebody cares."
"It always rains on the unloved."

"A person shouldn't have to lose all his pride when he's six years old."

SOME THOUGHTS ON KIDS, GLEANED FROM THE PAGES OF PEANUTS